

ORALL NEWSLETTER

OHIO REGIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LAW LIBRARIES

MARCH 2005

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President's Column – Claudia Zaher

President's Column

Hello to all ORALL members! Spring is on its way, the sun will surely appear again (a rare occurrence during the long winter months here in Greater Cincinnati!), our daily commutes will become easier, and our creative juices can start flowing again. . . so let's talk again about that AALL Publishing Initiatives Caucus (PIC).

In the last ORALL newsletter, I introduced the PIC. AALL has identified publishing as an extremely effective and important tool to bring recognition, relevance, and vitality to our libraries. Publishing is not just an empty public relations gesture or an ego boost for a librarian who wants a forum to voice an opinion. On the contrary, publishing can showcase librarians' knowledge, skills and talents to the decision makers who set our budgets and affect our daily lives. Because of the intended audience, the AALL's emphasis is on publishing in non-library publications such as bar journals, technology magazines and legal newspapers. Scholarly librarian tenure-type articles are not the issue here!

Other chapters are moving ahead with this idea. LLAW (Wisconsin) has a bibliography on their web page listing all their members' articles, divided by publication title (www.aallnet.org/chapter/llaw). It's quite an

impressive list, even though LLAW is a small chapter. COALL (Colorado) has a tab on their web page for "Member Articles" (www.aallnet.org/chapter/coall). It's a shorter list, and for some reason, they seem to exclude articles written for the state bar journal CALL (Chicago) has just started their list (www.aallnet.org/chapter/call). It's very brief, and it can be found on their web site under a tab called "Member Articles"

It's time for ORALL to do the same. I know that the librarians here at Chase take turns writing a column for a space that is reserved for us in every issue of Lex Loci, the Northern Kentucky bar association journal.

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ORALL

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Membership

Members: 311

Dues: \$15 per year

Non-member subscriptions: \$10 per year

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Newsletter

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Profile

ORALL is a 4-state chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries [Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan]. It was formed in 1949 "to further the development and usefulness of law libraries and to stimulate a spirit of mutual helpfulness among law libraries of this region." An annual conference is held each fall. ORALL publishes or sponsors the following publications: *Core Legal Collection* [bibliographies for Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan], ORALL Membership Directory, ORALL Newsletter, Ohio Legal Resources Annotated Bibliography & Guide 3rd.

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President's Column *continued*

So, colleagues, here's the challenge: What else is happening out there in ORALL land? I would like to gather a list of all articles, on any topic, that have been published by our members. Please email me the title and citation of any article you have published, going back as far as 1-1-2000. (send to zaher@nku.edu). If you don't have any titles to send to me...hmmmmmm, perhaps it's time? Without much effort, you can pick a research source or a library service you'd like to tell folks about. Perhaps there's a program you've given that you already have stored on your hard drive. I bet you can write up that idea and have it accepted for publication within a matter of weeks. The PIC is a good resource for finding that publisher. I'll look forward to hearing from each of you, so keep those titles flowing in!

For more information, and maybe inspiration, you should know that the Publishing Initiatives Caucus will convene at AALL's annual meeting in San Antonio, and

all interested ORALL members are invited to attend. There will also be a program at the meeting called "Publishing Outside the Law Library Box: Opportunities Beyond Law Library Publications," which will be coordinated by Maureen Eggert of Wake Forest. Details of both events will be announced.

In a related item, I would like to congratulate Sally Holterhoff of Valparaiso University. Sally is an ORALL member, a member of the Publishing Initiatives Caucus, and (drum roll, please) the newly-elected Vice-President / President-Elect of AALL. Congratulations, Sally! I would also like to congratulate fellow ORALL member Al Podboy who ran a tough race, but was not elected this year. Good luck next time, Al!

Happy Spring to all!

Claudia Zaher
ORALL President

* * *

Tech Talk

RARE BOOKS: JEWELS IN THE LIBRARY

By Deborah Dennison, Case Western Reserve University School of Law

Peregrine Bingham, *The Law of Infancy and Coverture* (Exeter, G. Lamson 1824)

Robertus Love, *The Rise and Fall of Jesse James* (New York, Putnam, 1926)

Nathaniel Bacon, *An Historical and Political Discourse of the Laws and Government of England...* (London, printed for J. Starkey 1689?)

Browse the covers of home magazines at the newsstand come January and one finds countless articles on getting organized, clearing out junk, managing chaos, and getting one's life in order. Most of the articles stress the emotional rewards that come from being in control of one's space. I would agree, but getting organized is no easy task, and cleaning the basement often impacts

other areas of the house. We're experiencing a similar situation as we continue our renovation here at the law library. Renovation impacts the library and staff in innumerable ways, affecting everything from policies and procedures, placement of collections, redesigning workflow, etc.

Not unexpectedly, we're also finding that a myriad of sub-projects emerge under the umbrella of our renovation. Some of these projects have been directly related to the renovation (e.g., developing an online retrieval form for books moved off site); others involve normal procedures which suddenly develop crucial time constraints (weeding subject areas for off-site relocation). Additionally, the renovation has served as a catalyst to undertake other projects long on our "to do" list.

One such rainy day project arose in connection to our archives room. The archives is a small space dedicated to rare books and other archival materials. Previously I might only approach this area, if at all, to answer specific reference questions. The area was cluttered and uninviting. Reference questions often mandated physical examination of an archival title because of inadequate bibliographic description.

Similar to one's own home, though, through the years our archives became a bit of a catch-all. So in addition to works such as an 1861 volume on attorney ethics¹, nearby shelves held miscellaneous materials that included art work, legal research videos on beta, construction materials, t-shirts from our "last renovation", and a base ball bat². Suffice to say, our archives had been in need of weeding, reorganization, and (re)cataloging for some time. With the allotted space drastically reduced in the renovation plan, the rainy day project took on immediacy.

I will not document all of the procedures involved here³ and the project is not complete. Briefly, we are deciding what can go to off-site storage, determining what should be housed in the future archive area, and addressing the appropriate bibliographic and preservation needs.

Similar to the practical (i.e., finding things) and emotional (more control in one's life) rewards of getting one's house in order, professionally and personally I'm reaping concrete benefits in organizing this finite area of the collection. This satisfies my dual professional role as a cataloger and as a reference librarian (increased usage due to enhanced access), and appeals to the book lover and historian in me as well. The materials are cultural and historical indicators of their times, as if looking into a time capsule.

True, the collection may not be particularly unique in terms of proprietary ownership.⁴ Few libraries house exceptional rare book collections. Nonetheless, the intrinsic value of our rare books remains. For so many reasons it is a good decision to send these older materials to a climate controlled facility, where they will be well maintained and easily retrievable. With our budgetary and space constraints, it's not likely that we will ever have an adequate rare book room on the premises. But having rediscovered these little gems, I look forward to a future project of wedding these arcana to today's technology for display and access in a beautiful "virtual archive."

* * *

¹ Samuel Warren, *The Moral, Social, and Professional Duties of Attorneys and Solicitors* (New York, Harper & Bros., 1861)

² Our head of reference keeps this in his office for unspecified purposes (hmmm...).

³ Feel free to contact me if you have any questions at deborah.dennison@cwru.edu

⁴ With the exception of the entire run of the *Vanity Fair Album* (London, Vanity Fair Office 1869-1912)

People and Places

CASE LAW LIBRARY RENOVATION

Renovation of the Case Law Library is scheduled for completion in December 2005. Until then, certain collections and areas of the library may be restricted. Please call before you visit to make sure materials are available for your service. For updates see:

http://lawwww.cwru.edu/tech_library/renovation/

* * *

CLEVELAND STATE SELECTS GEOFFREY S. MEARN'S AS LAW DEAN

Cleveland State University has selected Geoffrey S. Mearns as Dean of the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, effective July 11. Over the past four years, Mearns, of Shaker Heights, has been a partner in the Cleveland offices of Thompson Hine LLP from 1998 to 2001 and Baker & Hostetler LLP since 2002. From 1989 to 1998, Mearns worked for the U.S. Department of Justice. As Special Attorney to the U.S. Attorney General, he assisted in the prosecution of Terry Nichols, one of two defendants convicted of the Oklahoma City bombing.

Mearns earned a bachelor's degree in English from Yale University and a JD from the University of Virginia. He has served as an adjunct professor of law at Case Western Reserve University Law School and New York Law School. According to Cleveland State University President Michael Schwartz: "Geoffrey Mearns has enjoyed a distinguished legal career in both the public and private sectors and is now bringing his considerable talents to a key academic leadership position in our Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. The experience, accomplishments and skills that he will share with our students, faculty and the legal community will make him an invaluable member of our University team." Mearns will replace Dean Steven H. Steinglass, who is stepping down at the conclusion of this academic year.

* * *

THE END OF AN ERA: TEDDY ARTZ RETIRES

By Thomas Hanley, Director, University of Dayton School of Law

Teddy Artz was present at the (re)creation of the University of Dayton Law Library in 1974. When, after a long hiatus, the first of the books for the reestablishment of a law school library at the University of Dayton arrived, Teddy was there to help unload the boxes and to begin to organize the phoenix that was the law library. Teddy came to the University of Dayton Law Library directly from Library Science school at the University of Toledo. Although new to higher education, she had ten years of high school teaching behind her. Teddy has been the Acquisitions and Serials Librarian of the University of Dayton Law Library (now the University of Dayton Zimmerman Law Library) ever since.

From 1974 through 1997, Teddy and her colleagues toiled on the ground floor of the University's Roesch Library building, which the university libraries surrendered to the new, in 1974, law school on a "temporary" basis. The Roesch Library building is built into the side of a hill. The only windows on the ground floor are on the West wall. During those years, the library's newsletter was titled, "Notes from the Underground." Teddy's first "office" in the lawlibrary was located near the middle of the building. She did move up to a roomier office area in later years but moved even further from the

windows. When the law school and the law library moved to Joseph E. Keller Hall in July of 1997, Teddy finally saw the light, literally. She had the best view of any member of the law library staff from an office with both North- and East-facing windows.

Teddy was and continued to be the primary book selector for the law library. After Oscar Trelles, the first director of the law library who selected the core collection, Teddy was more responsible than anyone for the breadth and depth of the law library's holdings. Teddy also strove to serve the University, her profession, and her community beyond being an excellent librarian. She served on numerous University committees and boards. She has served on various committees of the Ohio Regional Association of Law Libraries and the American Association of Law Libraries. She is also very active in her church.

The University of Dayton has a Wellness Program and Teddy took advantage of many of the opportunities offered by the program. A while back, we were not too surprised when she told us she was going to take part in the water-walking program. Considering everything mentioned above, you could imagine we were a little disappointed when we learned she would only be walking IN water.

Teddy's last day with the UDSL library will be Friday, May 13, 2005.

* * *



PERSONAL PROFILE: TEDDY ARTZ
Acquisitions and Collections Librarian 1974 – 2005,
University of Dayton School of Law

1. ***Why did you become a librarian?*** After working as a teacher for 10 years, I decided that life is “life is too short” to work at something I didn’t enjoy. At about the same time, my sister-in-law received a press release from the University of Toledo announcing their new Master of Library Science program. In 1972, I was a member of the first class. There were twelve students in my class.

2. ***What do you consider your greatest accomplishment as a librarian?*** My greatest accomplishment – establishing and building a law library collection from the ground up! I came to the University of Dayton in May 1974 when I was fresh out of library school. The University of Dayton School of Law was reopening after 40 years. Oscar Trelles, the Library Director, and I, as Acquisitions Librarian, started the collection from scratch. At that time, I was in charge of everything related to the library. I built shelves, unloaded trucks, and determined how the collection would be arranged. I was a “Renaissance librarian.” After the collection was established, I was responsible for maintaining and building the collection. The Zimmerman Law Library now has more than 295,000 volumes of printed materials and microfilms.

3. ***What have been some of your biggest challenges?*** Keeping up with all the vendor and publishing changes has always been difficult. For the most part, the everyday struggles in Technical Services keep me busy – acquisitions and cataloging issues, processing bulk mail, and publisher

problems. I have a great eye for detail – it is a blessing and a curse. Nothing gets past my eagle eyes.

4. How has law librarianship changed over the last 30 years? An automated library system was unheard of 30 years ago. Card catalogs were the norm. I remember when typewriters became available to law students; now everyone has laptops. LexisNexis and Westlaw have changed the way that research is conducted. LexisNexis used our Law Library to start its collection. Students would check out books that would be copied by Mead Data Central.

5. How do you see the role of law libraries changing over the next 5 or 10 years? I see a shift in acquisitions – fewer books. Librarians will be information brokers – “this is better than that” (and why). I hope that law students learn that online providers are not the only available resources. There are more cost efficient (FREE) options available. Law students get hooked on LexisNexis and Westlaw and don’t realize the cost associated with their use. They forget that the answer might actually be in a book.

I also see more mergers; many of the smaller publishers are being absorbed by the giants. With the acquisitions of these “small fries” come higher subscription prices.

6. What have you done to keep up-to-date with all the changes? Attendance at conferences (AALL & ORALL) is extremely important. Reading trade journals also helps keep me up to speed on any new trends or developments effecting technical services or librarianship in general. Getting involved with AALL & ORALL as a board member or on a committee kept me plugged into changes going on within the profession. There have been significant changes in the last 10 years, and I think there are going to be bigger changes coming.

7. Any changes that have surprised you during your tenure as the Acquisition Librarian at UDSL? Who knew what an impact that LexisNexis and Westlaw would have on the industry. They grew so fast, I was waiting to hear, “What’s a book?”

8. What shifts are you seeing in the law and how has it affected law libraries? Changes in technology – CDs and cassettes have come and gone. Microfiche still has value, even though it was thought to be a dinosaur. Microfiche is the cost efficient alternative to digitization. Many predicted the demise of microfiche and it hasn’t come to fruition. Digitization is great, but with budgets shrinking and costs increasing, digitization is not always feasible.

9. How do you plant to spend your retirement? I plan on traveling – I am an active member of Elder Hostel. In summer 2005, I am taking a cruise to Alaska with family and friends. I would also like to do some volunteering. I will continue to sing in my church choir and I will become more active in my church activities.



Bon Voyage Teddy!

* * *

NEWS FROM THE MORITZ LAW LIBRARY AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

By Carole L. Hinchcliff, Acting Assistant Dean for Information Services

Bruce Johnson, Associate Dean for Information Services is on sabbatical during the current Spring Semester. Bruce is researching and writing a history of the Moritz Law Library. Carole Hinchcliff, Associate Director of the Law Library is currently serving as Acting Assistant Dean for Information Services while Bruce is on sabbatical.

Our newest member of the Reference staff, Matt Steinke, joined the Moritz Law Library shortly before the current spring semester. After graduating from University of Minnesota Law School in 2000, Matt worked as an associate at Altick & Corwin in Dayton. Matt expects to complete his Masters of Library and Information Science from Kent State University in August 2005.

Sara Sampson, Reference Librarian, and former Moritz Reference Librarian Travis McDade have contributed to a new election law web site (<http://moritzlaw.osu.edu/electionlaw>). Election Law @ Moritz is a continually updated website that provides email updates covering "information and insights on the laws governing federal, state and local elections."

Sara Sampson, will present a program of interest to Ohio law librarians at the American Association of Law Librarians annual meeting in San Antonio in July. The title of the program is "Citing the Unpublished Opinion: The Ohio Change and What It Might Mean to You." The description of the program is as follows:

Courts nationwide are re-examining rules that forbid or discourage citation of unpublished opinions—the "no-citation" rules. The recent ability of attorneys to have almost comprehensive access to previously "unpublished" cases through electronic databases has forced courts to start rethinking their traditional stance on the matter. For example, Ohio has abolished the precedential distinction between unpublished and published opinions. In order to give access to all cases to all attorneys, the Ohio Supreme Court has begun to publish all appellate opinions on its Web site and has mandated a new citation format to go along with this change. After covering the current status of the movement to abolish the so-called "no-citation" rule and its possible effects on legal research and law libraries, the results of a research project about whether the change in Ohio rules has had any effect on the citation of appellate cases will be presented.

The Moritz Law Library web site includes current and archival copies of Opinio Juris, our faculty newsletter (<http://moritzlaw.osu.edu/library/FacultyNewsletters/index.html>), and of the law student newsletter, the Voir Dire (<http://moritzlaw.osu.edu/library/StudentNewsletters/index.html>).

The new acquisitions list also appears (<http://moritzlaw.osu.edu/library/acquisitions/index.html>). A recently acquired title of use to Ohio legal researchers, and recommended by the Moritz reference librarians is the two volume set, "The History of Ohio Law" edited by Michael Les Benedict and John Winkler. See <http://library.ohio-state.edu/search/o?SEARCH=56450602>

Finally, the Moritz reference librarians participated in the annual Alternative Careers Fair for Moritz law students, and hosted by the College's Office of Professional Development.

* * *

RENOVATION: THE LAKE COUNTY LAW LIBRARY MOVES TO A SMALLER, STATE OF THE ART FACILITY

By Angela T. Baldree, MLS

Construction on the new Lake County Law Library began on January 26, 2004, sixteen years after the idea was first broached. The Library Board was very adamant about making the Lake County Law Library technologically advanced without alienating our print patrons. Because of online resources the library experienced a yearly decline in actual visits. Our challenge was to bring people back to the library for other reasons. We began by investigating wireless access in the library. In 2002 we had planned for extra electric and data outlets to accommodate laptop users, but in 2004 we took the next step with wireless access.



Wired Group Study Tables



Reference Area



Magazine Display

Another new area of technology that we decided to implement was videoconferencing. We worked with our vendor, telecommunications, and IT departments to work out the best scenario. What we came up with was a portable unit that could plug into any county network connection. This gave the unit many working options. Now videoconferencing is available for depositions, testimony, CLE classes, meetings, etc. We upgraded to 21" flat screen monitors for the patron computers, traded in our console television for a sleek 36" flat panel LCD wall mount, replaced our VCR with a VCR/DVD combo, and purchasing a digital camcorder and media projector for our users. Recently we worked out a deal with LexisNexis to embed their passwords in two Dell Notebooks and have these notebooks available for users to take home with them. This allows our attorneys to do research when it is convenient for them, not just when the courthouse is open.

On July 26, 2004, exactly six months from the start of demolition, the movers arrived. The previous library had been housed in a space that consisted of four rooms equaling 2800 square feet. Thanks to the convenience of compact shelving we now reside in a one room space of 2500 square feet. With the exception of a weeding project that took place in 2001 no other print titles had to be discontinued and we have at least five years of growth.



Law Review Area

After being in the space for some time we filled the library with live plants, installed mahogany chair railing in the foyer, and purchased four original oil paintings from a local artist as finishing touches. The biggest crowd pleasers, though, seem to be the wireless access, 21" monitors and the LCD television. As with any renovation process, usage went up after the initial opening due to sheer curiosity, but we still see people in the library we have never seen before, people we haven't seen for a long time returning and our old favorites here more often.

In the end it may have taken 16 years from beginning to end but well worth every minute. The Lake County Law Library is a beautifully designed, technologically equipped, and user friendly facility.

The patrons enjoy coming for research as well as a nice rest stop between hearings, trials, and meetings. The staff enjoys coming to work in this beautiful facility every morning and appreciate all the work and dedication the Library Board put into making this a reality.

Any ORALL member visiting the northeast corner of the state should consider this an open invitation to stop in and take a tour.



Space-reducing Compact Shelving

* * *

ORALL in Cyberspace

KEEP IT "SIMPLE"

By Ken Kozlowski, Director, Law Library of the Ohio Supreme Court

Do you find it increasingly difficult to keep on the latest happenings in the world of law, politics, and possibly technology? The evolution of "current awareness" on the Internet has taken a giant leap in recent months with the mainstreaming of the web log, or blog, or blawg.

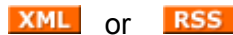
Previously, you could read the newspaper, listen to the radio, or perhaps watch television news on the local stations. Cable television upped the ante, but also made the choices more difficult. You have ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, CNNH, MSNBC, CNBC, Fox, Fox News Channel, and some people even profess to keep current on the news by watching *The Daily Show* on the Comedy Channel. Attorneys can also relax in front of CourtTV and watch live trials. The Internet made it even easier to keep current through mailing lists or listservs®, surf news sites, or access legal portals like FindLaw, MegaLaw, or law.com. The web log has now changed the way I keep current on a variety of things. In essence, I've had an epiphany, and its name is "blog."

First things first. Blog is simply the shortened term for web log. Blawg is short-hand for a web log that is law-oriented. The "simple" referred to in the title of this article is part of the term "Really Simple Syndication," or even more simply, RSS. RSS is an XML-based (Xtensible Markup Language) format for content distribution. It's a news feed, similar to what would come across a teletype (do those still exist?) from the Associated Press or United Press International in the days of yore. The great thing about all of this is that you need to know absolutely nothing about RSS, XML, or any other portion of the alphabet soup associated with it. A nice page offered by the web site c|net (<http://www.cnet.com/4520-6022-5115113.html>) explains a lot of this, if you are interested. One thing you will need is a news aggregator, and a little time to subscribe to your feeds. The aggregator I started using after my epiphany is Bloglines (<http://www.bloglines.com>). You must sign up for the service, usually with just an e-mail address and password. After you do that, you're ready to go.

How do you subscribe to newsfeeds? If you use Bloglines, they offer a list of blogs that you want to use. The other way is to surf over to the web site associated with the blog. Before doing that however, you want to load a little "bookmarklet" that allows easy subscriptions to blogs without any hassle. There will be a link to it on the Bloglines page. It will direct you to drag the

bookmarklet to your Links toolbar. This can be done by those using either the Internet Explorer or Mozilla Firefox web browsers. Trust me, it's easy.

Next, find a web log, any web log. You might have seen one referenced on a web page or a newspaper story. Doesn't matter. You might also use a web log search mechanism like <http://www.blawg.org/> to help in finding a relevant one. One you can use for practice is Robert Ambrogi's LawSites, located at <http://www.legalline.com/lawsites.html>. You will see one of these symbols:



That means that there is a feed available. What you should then do is click on your Bloglines subscribe bookmarklet and the subscription process begins. If that doesn't work, you may have to click on the XML or RSS icons first, then the bookmarklet.

Here is what your Bloglines subscription frame will look like once you've subscribe to a few things:



Here a few of the more "legal" type of blawgs you might want to check out:

- Bag and Baggage <http://bagandbaggage.com>
- Inter Alia <http://www.inter-alia.net/index.php>
- Legal Marketing <http://legalmarketing.typepad.com>
- PDF for Lawyers <http://www.pdfforallawyers.com/>
- beSpacific <http://www.bespacific.com/>
- LawLibTech <http://www.lawlibtech.com/>
- How Appealing <http://legalaffairs.org/howappealing/>
- Ernie The Attorney <http://ernieattorney.typepad.com/>
- SCOTUSBlog
<http://www.goldsteinhowe.com/blog/index.cfm>
- Overlawyered <http://www.overlawyered.com/>
- The 10b-5 Daily <http://www.the10b-5daily.com/>
- GrepLaw <http://grep.law.harvard.edu/>
- Blonde Justice <http://blondejustice.blogspot.com/>

All of the above blawgs cover some aspect of the law, whether it's legal research, appellate practice, or the U.S. Supreme Court. It's a great way to keep current on a myriad of subjects.

There are literally thousands of web logs out there, perhaps millions. Some are good, some are garbage. You should discern the reliability of a blog on your own or rely on a trusted opinion. You can use a different news aggregator other than Bloglines, it's just the one I chose to use for illustrative purposes. If you need help with any of this RSS stuff, please send me an e-mail and I'll be glad to offer some tips.

* * *

STARK COUNTY LAW LIBRARY BLAWG

By Kendel Croston, Director, Stark County Law Library

Librarians love to share information, and that is why Nancy Stinson started the Stark County Law Library Blawg (<http://temp.starklawlibrary.org/blog/>). Nancy is the publications assistant at the library. She writes a monthly article that appears in the local bar journal as well as putting together the library's newsletter. While working on those projects, she found that there were many excellent legal tips and tidbits that would not fit into the articles she wrote for those publications, so she started the blawg to share all of those wonderful "extra" resources with local attorneys.

Over the last couple of years, the blawg has not only been used by the locals, but also attracted national attention. First, from author Jerry Lawson, who said that "the Stark County Law Library blog does not have a snazzy name, but it is consistently one of the best current awareness sites for lawyers and law librarians."⁵ Then, AALL *Spectrum* noted that it is "[o]ne of the best law library blog examples," and "an excellent illustration of a newsletter for the legal community."⁶ Click on over to the Stark County Law Library web site (<http://www.starklawlibrary.org>) and go to the blawg to see what interesting information Nancy has to share today.

* * *

(UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI) LAW PROFESSOR BLOGS NETWORK

By Ron Jones, Reference Librarian, University of Cincinnati College of Law

By most accounts, 2004 was the "Year of the Blog" in web communications. In that year, Professor Paul Caron (Cincinnati) and Joe Hodnicki (Cincinnati Law Library) founded the Law Professor Blogs Network. See www.lawprofessorblogs.com. In creating the first commercial network of law blogs, my UC Law colleagues were signally their belief that the end of the beginning of the blogging phenomenon was at hand. Joe Hodnicki explains:

Blogs are no longer just vehicles for personal expression, ones offering up whatever bloggers fell like writing about. The post is much more than that now. The blogosphere is being commercialized just like more traditional websites were several years ago. Certainly, individuals will continue keyboarding personal opinions and certainly blogs will continue to explode onto the scene to cover significant events (e.g., 2005 Tsunami) but eventually group-based RSS feeds, including a network of multiple editor blogs such as ours, will be the primary providers of content to everyone's news readers.

No less a law blog authority than Dennis Kennedy recognized this when, on December 26, 2004, he explained his reasoning for characterizing Group Blogs as the "Best Legal Blog Trend of 2004":

2004 saw the appearance of a number of group blogging experiments by both new bloggers and long-time bloggers. I like this trend because it offers the potential of providing better content to a bigger audience and may open up revenue opportunities.

⁵ Lawson, Jerry. "10 Best Legal Web Sites of the Decade," posting on netlawblog <http://www.netlawblog.com>, Oct. 18, 2003.

⁶ Balleste, Roy. *Blogs in Law Libraries: Web Logs Offer an Electronic Alternative to Journals and Newsletters*, AALL SPECTRUM, May 2004 at 8.

Each blog in the Law Professor Blogs Network is designed to combine both (1) continuously-updated permanent resources and (2) daily news and information for academics and practitioners in the field covered by the blog. The blogs are not intended to be soapboxes for ruminations about the latest issues in the field. The Network's editors leave that terrain to the many existing blogs with that mission.

Joe Hodnicki is editor and I am a regular contributor to the Law Librarian Blog. See http://lawprofessors.typepad.com/law_librarian_blog/. The Law Professor Blogs Network also publishes blogs on antitrust, China law, contracts, criminal law, health law, labor and employment, law school academic support, media law, sentencing law & policy, tax, wills trusts & estates. Blogs on environmental law, First Amendment & Religion, intellectual property, and tech law are in development. See the Law Professor Blogs Network website at www.lawprofessorblogs.com for additional information, including links to the abovementioned blogs.

While the Law Librarian Blog is national in scope, there are a number of good blogs that are more local in focus. They include the Cincinnati Law Library Blog at <http://cincinnatiilaw.blogspot.com/>, the Stark County Law Library Blog at <http://temp.starklawlibrary.org/blog/>, Ohio Law at <http://ohiolawinfo.blogspot.com/> and Ohio Legal Research Blog at <http://ohiolegalblog.blogspot.com/>. See also left sidebar for blog finding tools and other LIS resources.

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ORALL Membership News

DUES REMINDER

By Thomas Hanley, Director, Zimmerman Law Library, University of Dayton

ORALL members should have received membership renewal forms by now. If you have not received your form or have mislaid it, please contact me (937-229-2444 / hanley@udayton.edu) and I will send you a replacement. If you have not already done so, please dig out the form, complete it and send it in along with your dues check. **If you have already completed this task, you can stop reading this section.**

If you have yet to complete and send your form, please look the form over carefully and check your contact information closely. Be sure to change any information that is no longer accurate before you return your form and dues check to Tom Hanley, Interim Treasurer. Please also fill in any changed information regarding your phone number, FAX number, and email address. The membership database and the directory when subsequently published can only be accurate if you take the time to make certain that the information you provide is accurate.

Finally, please indicate a clear preference on the form for whether you want your contact information to appear in the directory section of the ORALL website. Also, the ORALL Board has voted to change the defaults for how you will receive the newsletter and the directory. If you want one or either in paper format, you must indicate that on your renewal form. The absence of a clear indication that you want paper will result in you receiving access to these publications in electronic form. I encourage you to choose to receive them in electronic format. The electronic choice saves ORALL money and you receive the publications or access to the publications sooner than if you opt to receive the publications in paper.

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ORALL NOMINATIONS 2005-2006

The Nominations Committee announces the following slate for the ORALL Executive Board starting at the close of the 2005 Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, IN, October 12-14, 2005. The Committee wishes to thank these members for their enthusiasm and willingness to serve.

Vice President/President-Elect

MIRIAM A. MURPHY
Associate Director
Ruth Lilly Law Library
Indiana University School of Law
Indianapolis, IN

Treasurer

DONALD A. ARNDT, JR.
Director, Law Library
University of Toledo
College of Law Library
Toledo, OH

Executive Board Member

KENNETH S. KOZLOWSKI
Director of the Law Library
Supreme Court of Ohio Law Library
Columbus, OH

Comments regarding the candidates may be directed to the Chair of the ORALL Nominations Committee by April 15, 2005:

Beth A. Langton, Chair, ORALL Nominations Committee
Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs, LLP
50 S. Main Street, P.O. Box 1500
Akron, OH 44309
blangton@bdbl.com

Further nominations may be made by written petition to the ORALL Secretary by April 15, 2005:

Maureen H. Anderson, ORALL Secretary
University of Dayton
Zimmerman Law Library
300 College Park
Dayton, OH 45469-2780
maureen.anderson@notes.udayton.edu

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QUESTION:
How does West
support Law Librarians?



June Berger
Director of Library Services
Stroock & Stroock & Lavan, LLP
New York, NY

ANSWER:

“My West Librarian Relations manager offers solutions to the tough issues I face every day. West understands what it takes to achieve excellence in my profession.”

June Berger knows that our Librarian Relations program is just one example of how West can help you maximize your career potential and your professional value. From a company that's been supporting the law for over 130 years, you shouldn't expect anything less.

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